

18 April 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Division and Branch Chiefs, ERA

FROM: Chief, Medium Machinery Branch, 1102 Que, X-2922

SUBJECT: DD/I request for 45-minute briefing from ORR

1. The Presidential policy on keeping unclassified strategic information from reaching the USSR has been implemented primarily through the Office of Strategic Information of the Department of Commerce -- two committees set up under Commerce (one on publications and one on exchange of publications) and a committee under the Bureau of the Budget (on statistical security). There have been recent pressures to reduce certain aspects of this program and the over-all Presidential policy is now to be reviewed by a panel of high level consultants -- understood to be primarily publishers and editors.

2. These consultants will be briefed on various aspects of the problem by the FBI, State and CIA. ORR has been asked to coordinate a 45-minute briefing for the DD/I area. [REDACTED] is heading a small working-group assigned to prepare this briefing. I am representing the Economic Research Area. 25X1A

3. Assistance is requested of selected ERA division and branch chiefs. Listed below are a number of questions. Answers to these questions, and responses suggested by them, will form the basis for the ERA contribution to this briefing.

4. An initial draft of the ERA position must be completed by c.o.b. Monday, 22 April. The earliest possible response would be appreciated.

a. In your area of responsibility what are the benefits of US open-source materials to the USSR?

b. In what commodity fields are the Soviets particularly dependent upon US open-sources?

c. To what use do the Russians put US open-sources? Do these sources supplement the USSR's own original research

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capabilities or do they depend heavily upon these sources for their technological gains? Have there been any recent changes in Soviet dependence upon US open-sources? Do you have any examples, such as illustrative documents, pamphlets, etc., that show Soviet use of US open-sources?

d. What open-sources are most useful to the Soviets, i.e. technical journals, proceedings, government publications, literature published by private companies?

e. Can you give any examples of unclassified material that should, and practically speaking, could be denied the Soviets?

f. If the US attempts to deny unclassified strategic and technical information to the USSR would the Russians have access to this or similar information through other sources? For example, international organizations such as ECE, or through other semi-covert collection operations in the US?

g. From a US intelligence viewpoint, what is the value of Soviet open-sources in your commodity field?

h. From a technological viewpoint, what is the value of Soviet open-sources to American industry -- actual and potential?

i. What types of information, readily available to the Russians, are denied or difficult for us to get. For example, in recent months we have received statistical handbooks which provide certain types of information but omit other important categories. What type of information is still lacking in your commodity fields, for example, what are the major deficiencies of the Soviet handbooks as compared to similar information in the US? In what areas do Soviet open-source materials compare favorably with their US counterparts -- both from an intelligence and technological point of view.

j. In your opinion, what would be the probable net advantage or disadvantage of attempting greater denial to the

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USSR of US open-source material in your field? Would greater denial to the USSR of open-source material jeopardize the availability of Soviet material to us?

6. There is no need to specifically answer each of the above questions. Rather they are intended to characterize the problems we are dealing with. It would be preferred if each branch chief prepare a brief general statement built around the above questions. Care should be taken to clearly distinguish between technical vs intelligence gains for both the US and USSR.

7. Attached is an outline of the proposed briefing.

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